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## EPA Adds new site to the Superfund List

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**Wilcox Oil Company Site  
Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma**

**Date 2013**

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ODEQ logo here

### This fact sheet will tell you about:

- **The NPL**
- **The Superfund Process**
- **The Wilcox Refinery Site**
- **Current status**
- **Activities completed**
- **What happens next**
- **How EPA and ODEQ involve the public in cleanup decisions.**
- **ATSDR**
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- **Recommendations to the public**

Sites are discovered by various parties, including citizens, State agencies, and EPA Regional offices. EPA then evaluates the potential for a release of hazardous substances from the site through a step-by-step process that include site assessments, site inspections, and evaluation through a ranking process to identify those sites that merit to be added to the list of top priorities, the NPL. Once on this list, EPA determines the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment. Opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process, which is shown in the graphic attached to this fact sheet.

### The Nation Priorities List

The National Priorities List or NPL, is a list of top priority sites to be addressed through the Superfund Law. Initially 406 sites were listed when established in 1983, currently over 1685 sites have been indentified and added to the list, while the EPA and the states continues to evaluate potential future sites. With the current rulemaking announcement the EPA is adding the Wilcox Oil Refinery to this list.

### The Superfund Process

The Superfund cleanup process begins with site discovery or notification to EPA of possible releases of hazardous substances.

### The Wilcox Refinery Site

Wilcox Oil Company is an inactive and abandoned oil refinery located in Creek County, Oklahoma. The site consists of contaminated areas and surface water bodies due to releases from the former Lorraine and former Wilcox Refineries that operated from mid 1920s to early 1960s. The location of the releases from the two refineries are considered to be a single site composed of a commingled release and covers approximately 125 acres.

Major operational areas include the former Wilcox Oil Refinery, the Lorraine Refinery and the product storage area (tank farm). Contaminants of concerns on site contain elevated concentrations of metals and organic compounds in the former storage

tank areas, surface soils, surface impoundment and sediments. Elevated levels of metals were also detected in three private residential wells on site, and from three wells adjacent to the property.

#### **Current Status**

The EPA works as a lead agency in coordination with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) as a support agency to conduct the Superfund step-by-step process. At this times the following actions have been completed:

#### **Activities Completed**

A Preliminary Assessment conducted by ODEQ in 2008.

A Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2009.

An Expanded Site Inspection conducted by ODEQ in 2011.

A Hazard Ranking System package completed by EPA in May 2013.

Proposal to the NPL on 4/24/2013

Added to the NPL on 12/12/2013

#### **What Happens Next**

EPA is currently searching for Potential Responsible Parties (PRP(s)).

A major goal of the Superfund program is to encourage PRPs to remediate hazardous waste sites. The enforcement process normally used by EPA to enlist PRP involvement may include five major efforts:

- First, EPA attempts to identify PRPs as early as possible.

- Second, EPA will encourage PRPs to do the work at a site.
- Third, if EPA believe the PRP is willing and capable of doing the work, EPA will attempt to negotiate an enforcement agreement. This type of agreement may take the form of an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).
- Fourth, if a settlement could not be reached, EPA can se its authority to issue a unilateral administrative order or directly file suit against the PRP(s).
- Fifth, if the PRP(s) do not perform the response action or no PRP(s) are available, the EPA will undertake the work, EPA will file suit against the PRP(s) when practicable.

This is called cost recovery and it is a major priority under the Superfund program.

The enforcement process will lead to the completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, this determines the nature and extent of contamination, evaluate risks, tests whether certain technologies are capable of treating the contamination, and evaluates the cost and performance of technologies that could be used to clean up the site.

Based on results of the feasibility study portion of this phase, EPA will develop a Proposed Plan for cleaning up the site

#### **How EPA and ODEQ Involve the Public**

- Requesting public comments on proposed cleanup plans.
- Meeting with the public, providing updates and fact sheets.

- Mailing list, websites.
- Technical Assistance Grants (TAG)

A TAG grant is available to a local citizen's group to hire a technical advisor to interpret site studies and/or site-related health information for area residents.

**ATSDR**

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is the principal federal public health agency involved with hazardous waste issues. ATSDR advises the EPA, as well as other federal and state agencies, community members and other interested parties, on the health impacts of Superfund sites. The agency recommends actions that need to be taken to safeguard people's health. It does this by issuing public health advisories, assessments and consultations.

**For Future Information  
Site Repository**

The City of Bristow - Public Library  
111 West 7th St. Bristow, OK 74010

Internet sites  
[www.xyx](http://www.xyx)

**Contacts**

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